

Ten lawmakers to quiz So

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Congressional leaders hope to quiz President Gorbachev today about his opposition to a unified Germany in NATO, the future emigration of Soviet Jews and plans to negotiate independence with the rebellious Baltic republics.

But they will have precious little time to do it.

Ten lawmakers—six senators and four House members — will meet Mr. Gorbachev for a one-hour question-and-answer session at the Soviet Embassy this morning before he joins President Bush for the second round of summit talks.

Those scheduled to attend are: Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell of Maine; Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas; Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, Minnesota Republican; Sen. Alan Cranston, California Democrat; Sen. Sam Nunn, Georgia Democrat and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Sen. Claiborne Pell, Rhode Island Democrat and chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Also, House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri; House Minority Leader Robert Michel of Illinois; Rep. Les Aspin, Wisconsin Democrat and chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Rep. Dante Fascell, Florida Democrat and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

"A number of us are deeply concerned about the right of Russian Jews to leave the Soviet Union, which is both a human rights issue and a trade issue," said Mr. Gephardt.

The Jackson-Vanik Amendment requires that all nations receiving most-favored-nation trading status allow their citizens to emigrate freely. It was drafted to entice the Soviets to allow more Jews to leave the country.

Most of the lawmakers appear satisfied with the progress of arms control talks, despite some objections raised by conservatives about Soviet strategic advantages that could result from the current agreements on strategic weapons.

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Soviet leader for an hour

"I see no difficulty in ratifying [the proposed arms treaty] in the Senate, despite voices by GOP hardliners," said Mr. Cranston. "That is, of course, assuming no further Soviet Union aggressions, for instance, in Lithuania. That would be a disaster for them and for us if there were untoward incidents like that."

The Baltic issue appeared to be on the minds of several of the lawmakers. Aides to several said Congress would likely reject trade agreements or arms control treaties if the Soviets used violence against the democracy movements.

"Clearly, progress on arms control is important, as are developments in the Soviet Union and Europe with respects to the Baltic

republics and economic reforms generally," said an aide to Mr. Mitchell.

An aide to Mr. Aspin, said he would raise the issue of German reunification and a pullout of Soviet troops from Eastern and Central Europe.

The Soviets are balking on a conventional forces treaty and over allowing the new Germany to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The issues appear related. Mr. Gorbachev opposes including Germany, which has twice invaded the Soviet Union, in a distinctly military alliance.

"The Soviets need to understand that it's going to be more of a political unit rather than having a mili-

tary role," Mr. Cranston said of the newly shaped NATO envisioned by many Westerners.

Mr. Gorbachev's approach to Cuba's Marxist government also will affect U.S. policy, said Mr. Fascell.

In a letter delivered to the Russian Embassy on Wednesday, Mr. Fascell said Kremlin sponsorship of Fidel Castro conflicts with Mr. Gorbachev's stated political goals of bringing dissent and open markets to the Soviet empire.

When asked why Mr. Gorbachev should take seriously what the legislators might say, Mr. Cranston said: "They now understand what the role of the Senate is. It used to be that they thought that the president could just order us to do what he wanted."